

RECONSTRUCTED Sept. 30, 1971

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Shawnee
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:	St. Joseph's Catholic Church
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:			
235 Van Buren St.			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Topeka		no. 2, Bill Roy	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Kansas	20	Shawnee	177

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition:	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
		<input type="checkbox"/> In Process		<input type="checkbox"/> No
		<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:	Archdiocese of Kansas City and Kansas
STREET AND NUMBER:	2220 Central Avenue
CITY OR TOWN:	Kansas City
STATE:	Kansas
CODE	20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:	Register of Deeds
STREET AND NUMBER:	Shawnee County Courthouse
CITY OR TOWN:	Topeka
STATE:	Kansas
CODE	20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:	NONE
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	
STATE:	
CODE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Shawnee
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Joseph's Catholic Church is a fine old red brick church which was built on a native limestone foundation extending about four feet above the ground.

Most impressive to one approaching the church are the two identical steeples towering over all the neighboring buildings and trees. These towers begin as squares and then are quite nicely transformed into octagons. This transformation is executed very gracefully by first cutting off the square corners at the clock level; the next logical step is an octagon roof with equal sides.

Even the interest of the steeple roof is not left to chance, with its band to strengthen the form and small windows to arouse curiosity. As the eye moves down the towers to the ground, the quality of masonry work makes a strong impression. All details are carried out in brick, and this adherence to a single building material creates a design that enables all features to be in perfect harmony with one another.

The cross-shaped plan is echoed in the gable roof with rose windows below each gable. All lintels incorporate brick used in a radial pattern, and the sills are also brick. Further depth and richness is developed in the structure through the use of pilasters and simple dentil work below the roof eaves.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1901

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Joseph's Parish in Topeka was organized in 1886 by Father Francis Henry, who was pastor for 46 years until his death in 1932. St. Joseph's was a German national parish where all services were held in the German language. In the early years a two-story brick building afforded facilities for a church, school rooms, and pastor's quarters.

Plans for a new church were delivered by the architect Staudaher of Rock Island, Illinois, on July 1, 1898. Construction quickly began and the greater portion of the church was built in 1899. The availability of funds determined the amount of work which was completed each year. Except for the furnishings, it appears the building itself was completed by 1901. The altars were purchased in 1904, the pipe organ in 1906, and the final project was the paving of the street and the frescoing in 1909.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church is an outstanding Kansas example of a large 19th century brick church building. The arch style shows Romanesque influences.

*... it has been ...
*

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blaufuss, Very Rev. A. J., "A Brief History of St. Joseph Church, Topeka, Kansas 1887-1937," Historical Sketches of Parishes and Churches Within the Diocese, Diocese of Leavenworth, Book B (1938), pp. 263-276.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	39	03	24
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	95	40	29

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant Richard D. Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey	
ORGANIZATION	Kansas State Historical Society	DATE	11(Nov.), 1970
STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street			
CITY OR TOWN:	Topeka	STATE	Kansas 66612
		CODE	20

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name _____

Nyle H. Miller

Title _____

Date Sent to NR: 11/20/70

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS